The Weekly News Letter is published by authority and instruction of the Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, and is furnished weekly, free of cost, to all official labor and reform publications.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 2. NO. 19. WASHINGTON, D. C., AUGUST 10, 1912. WHOLE NO. 71.

THE GREEDY STEEL TRUST.

Washington, Aug. 10.—The Congressional Committee which investigated the United States Steel Corporation under a resolution adopted May 4, 1911, which had been strongly urged before Congress for several sessions by the American Federation of Labor and other reform associations, has completed its report and it will be presented to Congress when the minority members of the committee have their reports completed.

It is urged that members of Congress be requested to supply applicants with copies of this remarkable document for use in trade union and central union libraries. From it, these truths are gleaned: "A most important economic fact brought out in this investigation which has too often been overlooked is that the true measure of a man's work is the production per man per day, and not the mere amount of wage paid. This important fact should never be lost sight of in the all important question of cost production."

This statement is verified by a table which shows that the trust has secured more pig iron at a lower wage cost and sold it to the consumers at a higher price in 1909 than they did in 1902, and that they actually employed a lesser number of men in a fewer number of days in 1909 than they did in 1902 in the State of Pennsylvania.

In 1909 the trust employed in the production of pig iron in Pennsylvania 14,-621 men; in 1902, 17,101 men; in 1909 they worked 300 days, in 1902 274 days. In 1909 it cost the trust 82 cents for labor to produce one ton of pig iron, in 1902 they paid $1.25 per ton. In 1909 each man produced 2 4-10 tons of pig iron per day, in 1902 a man produced 1½ tons per day, in 1909 the trust sold its pig iron at $17.44 per ton, and in 1902 they only got $15.64 per ton. The average daily wage increased 20 cents per day, or from $1.89 in 1902 to $2.09 in 1909.

The committee states that on June 17, 1901, six weeks after the Steel Corporation was organized and began operations, Mr. Charles Steele, a member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., brought forward the following proposition at a meeting of the executive committee of the Steel Corporation, and the president was instructed to convey it to all the presidents of the subsidiary companies. This resolution was extensively discussed, and it clearly and emphatically displays the attitude of this greedy corporation toward labor, especially organized labor. Mr. Steele's proposition reads:

"That we are unalterably opposed to any extension of union labor, and advise subsidiary companies to take a firm position when these questions come up, and say that they are not going to recognize it—that is, any extension of unions in mills where they do not now exist; that great care should be used to prevent trouble, and that they promptly report and confer with this corporation."

All of the evidence collected by the committee clearly shows how American laborers felt after they saw the attitude of the trust following this declaration. They considered they were not wanted in the works of the United States Steel Company, and the process of filling their places by hordes of laborers from Southern Europe began swiftly and has continued up to the present time. These foreign laborers were almost entirely from agricultural localities; they knew absolutely nothing about the manufacture of iron and steel, but they were serviceable to fight the American labor unions.

They were absolutely unskilled and could only work as common laborers. In times of special necessity, especially during the period when the Steel Trust abrogated its last contract with the sheet and tin plate mill men in 1909, the trust openly and brazenly advertised in the Pittsburg papers that they "wanted tin house men, tinners, catchers, and helpers. Syrians, Poles, and Roumanians preferred. Steady employment and good wages to men willing to work; fare paid and no fees charged." In response to this attitude of the Steel Trust toward American labor the committee impressively reports that "the result is that 80 per cent of the unskilled laborers are foreigners of these classes. With the guidance of a skilled American foreman such a crew can work out results in unskilled labor production."

The profits of this system of employment go to the Steel Corporation, while the displaced American workman shifts as best he can. The committee also says that: "The daily lives and conditions of living of these laborers show conditions undesirable and far below what is ordinarily understood to be the American standard of living among the laborers of our country. Some of the details are revolting, both as to sanitary and moral conditions. Taking the ordinary family as a unit, the wages paid, even if the head of the family is constantly employed, are barely enough to provide subsistence."

Many other truths concerning labor are included in this Congressional report, all of which corroborate the charges which have been made against the United States Steel Corporation by the American Federation of Labor, and which had been placed in the hands of the President of the United States and his Cabinet long before it was possible to secure this Congressional investigation, and the fact stands out prominently that the hundreds of thousands of toilers in the employ of the United States Steel Corporation are little better than serfs in Europe during the Middle Ages.

BEWARE OF FALSE APPEALS.

Washington, Aug. 10.—Jere L. Sullivan, secretary-treasurer of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes, has issued a warning that all local unions receiving appeals for any allied organization affiliated with the International, of which he is secretary, are hereby notified and urged to refer appeals to him for verification at Cincinnati, Ohio, before making any donation.

Mr. Sullivan says: "Whoever is responsible for these appeals coming from alleged organizations composed of bartenders have some knowledge of the labor movement and is using it to reap financial returns. It is nothing more or less than a graft pure and simple. The unions of our international have no reason to make an appeal to any person outside of their own organization. We maintain a defense fund to assist such unions as are entitled to it. Such locals that are not entitled to financial assistance from our international are positively not entitled to it from any other union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. We have not found it necessary to appeal to other organizations for financial assistance since 1898, the year our organization was started. We trust that conditions will permit an uninterrupted and unbroken record of being able to take care of ourselves."

REPORT FROM BREWERY WORKERS.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Aug. 10.—The brewery workers have signed new contracts for two local unions in Portsmouth, N. H., and for others at Neenah, Menasha, and Appleton, Wis.; Walla Walla, Wash., and Thornton, Ill.

HOUSE PASSES SEAMEN'S BILL.

Washington, Aug. 10.—The bill to make the seaman a free man, in so far as the United States can do it, passed the House of Representatives on Saturday, Aug. 3, without a division. The bill will require the seamen to be skilled in their work. This factor alone will improve safety at sea for passengers and merchandise in transit.

It is hoped and expected that the bill will pass the Senate and become a law during this session, even though the time left for that accomplishment is somewhat limited. The seamen, in cooperation with the American Federation of Labor, have urged this legislation for about twenty years. When this bill becomes law it will wipe away the last vestige of serfdom and involuntary servitude within the jurisdiction of the United States.

With reference to seamen of foreign countries, it will ultimately have the same result, because when the United States refuses to co-operate and return to their owners the seamen of foreign vessels coming to ports of the United States, those nations will have to remodel their maritime laws in the interest of human liberty and the safety of the traveling public while at sea.

The bill relieves seamen from criminal proceedings for violating a contract of labor, leaving only the civil process as a remedy available to a person or corporation that desires to proceed against seamen.

Representative W. B. Wilson of Pennsylvania, who introduced this bill in Congress, was also commissioned by the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries to report it from that committee. A part of his report on the bill says its enactment will accomplish three very important things. "First, it will give freedom to the sailors; second, it will permit safety at sea; third, it will equalize the operating expenses of foreign and domestic vessels engaged in their sea trade, and tend to build up our merchant marine."

Representatives Moore of Pennsylvania, Weeks of Massachusetts, and Humphreys of Washington exerted themselves to the limit to prevent the passage of this exceptionally necessary and humane measure.

CHIPS FROM THE CARPENTERS.

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 10.—The District Council of Carpenters at Toronto, Canada, report an increase in wages of 3 cents an hour, which became effective May 1. A three-year agreement was made with the Master Builders' Association at New Haven, Conn., working hours being eight per day, forty-four per week, and 45 cents per hour minimum. At Rome, N. Y., the schedule calls for 41 cents per hour and a forty-four-hour week. This means a gain of 3½ cents per hour and the Saturday half holiday, with good feeling prevailing between employers and carpenters.

At Peckville, Pa., the agreement provides for a minimum rate of 37½ cents per hour, which is an advance of 2½ cents per hour—no strike. At Worcester, Mass., all the mills and wood trim jobs are working fifty hours per week. The reduction in working time was obtained without strike. At Sidney, N. S., Canada, a raise of 3½ cents per hour was secured, working hours nine per day—no strike. At Wheeling, W. Va., under the auspices of the Ohio Valley District Council of Carpenters an adjustment was made by which the difficulties in the building trades were adjusted satisfactorily to contractors and mechanics.

At Louisville, Ky., a 45 cent minimum has been established which is equivalent to a 5 cent per hour raise. The local reported that "we had not the least trouble; our demands were granted without a murmur from the contractors." At Fond du Lac, Wis., after a strike lasting one day, a minimum of 38 cents per hour for a nine-hour day was secured, that was an increase of 3 cents per hour. At Port Colburne, Can., an agreement was negotiated raising the rate 5 cents per hour and assuring the employment of union men only; working hours being nine per day.

At Rochester, N. Y., the forty-four hour week the year round was established for the carpenters, with an increase of 25 cents per day, the minimum being $3.75 per day. An increase of 25 cents per day was obtained for the millmen, their minimum schedule being $2.75 per day of eight hours.

During the month of July new local unions were chartered by the Brotherhood at Uniontown, Pa., New Smyrna, Fla., Wilton, Conn.; Navasota, Tex.; Auburn, R. I.; Wheeling, W. Va. (millmen); Little Rock, Ark., and Owen Sound, Ontario.

DEMONSTRATION OF EFFICIENCY.

Washington, Aug. 10.—Walter MacArthur, editor of the Coast Seamen's Journal, says in the issue of that paper for July 24 that a certain gentleman hailing from New York and claiming to represent a number of seamen on the Atlantic coast appeared before the Congressional Committee on Merchant Marine to protest against the seamen's bill (H. R. 23673), and among other things in the bill he objected to the proposed standard of "individual efficiency." He attempted to create the impression that in these days any man could fill a sailor's or fireman's position.

Since then the seamen who were so grossly misrepresented in Washington by this man have been on strike for an increase in wages, and in this connection the following news item concerning the steamship Philadelphia, which left New York with a crew of unskilled nonunion men, seems timely:

"The steamship Philadelphia made Southampton three days late, and in passing the steamship New York in midocean, the wireless operator sent a message saying that she (the Philadelphia) had everything on board except sailors and firemen."

This item indicated that experience, efficiency, and skill do really amount to something upon a modern steamship after all. From another point of view, this news item will help bring a shipowner to his senses and serve as an actual demonstration that it pays him to employ efficient men, or members of the Seamen's Union, and in addition it emphasizes the soundness of the arguments made before Congressional committees for years by Andrew Furuseth and other representatives of the International Seamen's Union of America, for the enactment into law of a standard of "individual efficiency" as contained in the seamen's bill, H. R. 23673.

HIGHER WAGES FOR TAILORS.

Washington, Aug. 10.—Consul Chase, of Leeds, England, reports that the "readymade" clothing shops are extremely busy and that the bosses complain of emigration. They say that the supply of workers has been reduced, and the remaining workers are taking advantage of the conditions to strengthen their union, thereby reducing hours and increasing wages. The garment workers report that less than ten years ago they worked steadily from 7 a. m. to 9 p. m. for 50 cents per day, but since their organization has become strong, their work from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m., and secure a minimum wage of $1.50 a day, many earning more.

THE RESOURCEFUL MACHINISTS' UNION

Washington, Aug. 10.—International President William H. Johnston, of the machinists' union, in his annual report says that forty-four new agreements have been made by the organization with employers during the fiscal year closing June 30, 1912, and that "a much larger number of agreements have been entered into with employers by local organizations, but which have not been reported to the international," the last agreements being, one with the Martin Gable Machine Company of Louisville, Ky., in which a union shop agreement was made, granting a nine-hour day and a minimum rate of 33 1-3 cents per hour.

Another agreement was made with the Milwaukee Brewers' Association which will run until May 10, 1915, and in which an eight-hour day is secured at a minimum rate of 45 cents per hour. Time worked after midnight, Saturday afternoons and on Sunday to be paid at the rate of double time, 90 cents per hour. The membership in the lower towns of Ontario have established a minimum rate of 30 cents per hour. On the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway an increase was obtained for machinists of 3½ cents per hour.

Agreements have been made with the Scott Printing Press Company, the Potter Printing Press Company, and the Hall Printing Press Company, of Plainfield, N. J., by which the eight-hour day will be obtained on January 1, 1914, the working time being diminished fifteen minutes per day each six months. The Feigenspan Brewery Company of Newark, N. J., has signed for the eight-hour day with a minimum of $3.50 per day, and the eight-hour day has been obtained for the machinists in all of the mills where they are employed by the International Power Company. This agreement was obtained in conjunction with the International paper makers and other organizations working in the plants of the paper company.

A very satisfactory agreement was made on the Federation basis for machinists, boilermakers, blacksmiths, etc., with the New Orleans (La.) Terminal Company at a minimum basis of 40 cents per hour for all above named mechanics. In the Farrell Foundry Company of Ansonia, Conn., an increase in wages was secured, running from 1 to 2 1-2 cents per hour.

During the fiscal year just closed seventy-six new lodges were organized, death benefits amounting to $36,231 were paid, and strike benefits of $327,164 were paid from the International funds. The local organizations paid to members on strike an estimated amount of $300,000 additional. This heavy strike expenditure was incurred because of the determined effort to secure the eight-hour day in the machine shops of New York City and vicinity, and the strike waged on the Harriman and Illinois Central Railroad systems in behalf of the Federation of Federations' Movement, the men in all avocations engaged in the strike standing remarkably true. Business generally throughout the country in machine production is better than it has been for years.

STEAMBOAT MEN GAIN AN INCREASE

Washington, Aug. 10.—The Steamboat Men's Union of San Francisco has obtained an increase in wages for all of its members on the bay and river after conducting lengthy negotiations with some of the owners. The organized boatmen of the Sacramento and Joaquin Rivers have demonstrated the constructive value of trade unionism.

Before they were organized they worked an unlimited number of hours per day. They started and stopped, and started again whenever the boss ordered. Overtime pay to them was unknown. Their wages were set by the owners according to the season of the year, and according as the supply and demand of labor fluctuated. That was ten years ago. Since organization was effected, a schedule of hours and wages has been enforced.

Gradual improvements have been made from year to year. The latest schedule of wages provides that firemen shall receive $55 per month and double time for all Sunday work. Bow watchmen and deck boys will receive the same pay as deck hands, and will perform the services of deck hands when called upon, wages for deck hands being $50 per month, but on boats traveling north of the Sacramento Bridge, the rate will be $52.50 per month. Cooks and mess boys will receive an increase of $5 per month. Cooks and stewards receiving less than $70 per month will be raised $5 per month, and extra pay for all overtime will be allowed. Six hundred men are affected by this new schedule.

HORSESHOERS REPORT GREAT PROGRESS.

Cincinnati, Ohio.—After two months of a hard and bitter fight between the Master and Journeymen Horseshoers of Cincinnati the lockout which started May 22 terminated in a sweeping victory for the Journeymen on July 15, when the majority of the horseshoeing shop owners requested the men to return to work with an increase of 50 cents per day for floor men and 25 cents per day for firemen.

This fight was a direct issue made by the Master Horseshoers' Protective Association to disrupt local union No. 12. The local did not lose a member during the trouble either by resignation or desertion, but instead they increased their membership while the test of strength was being waged.

The master horseshoers attempted to obtain support from the courts by means of the "injunction route," but the Court of Common Pleas denied them. The matter was then carried to the Circuit Court, and on July 26, the Circuit Court handed down its decision which was again favorable to the Journeymen Horseshoers. The Brooklyn Horseshoers of local No. 142 are at this writing negotiating a new agreement with the master horseshoers of New York City.

MINERS GET INCREASE.

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 10.—The coal mine owners and representatives of the United Mine Workers of America reached an agreement on August 3, after a tenday conference at Cheyenne, Wyo., in which the interest of 10,000 miners in the Wyoming coal field was involved and a strike averted. The new agreement will run until September 1, 1914. It provides for a substantial wage increase and a very material improvement in the working conditions of the coal mines of that field. The United Mine Workers' organization is in good shape, and the membership steadily increasing. Small local strikes are in progress in Colorado, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee. A much more severe one is undergoing a crucial test in West Virginia. Prospects for a settlement in the near future for the smaller strikes appear to be good. The mine workers and operators are in conference negotiating new wage contracts in Montana and Washington.

Carbondale, Pa., obtained a city ordinance providing an eight-hour day for all city employes.

THE INTERNATIONAL TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION

Washington, Aug. 10.—The officers of the International Typographical Union have distributed their reports to the membership for its consideration previous to the fifty-eighth convention, which will be held at Cleveland, August 12 to 17. These reports are complete in every detail and consist of a volume of 250 pages. In a previous news letter some details as to the economic progress of the Typographical Union were given, and from this report the following facts are gleaned, an analytical perusal of which will convince the reader that the Typographical Union is one of the great American trade unions of which the organized workers are justly proud.

During the fiscal year just closed, 113 agreements were made with the employers which carried a raise in wages. In twenty other instances, hours were reduced for hand and machine compositors varying from one-half an hour to six hours per week, the average reduction being two and seven-tenths hours per week for all classes of work. Taking the membership of the unions for whom these reductions in hours were effected, they aggregate a saving in time of 100,824 hours per week. The mortuary receipts for the year were $82,231, the number of deaths were 655, the death benefit totaling during the year $31,196. One of the greatest benefits accruing to the members of the Typographical Union is the conservation of health, which is being made obligatory upon all employers. The battle by this organization against tuberculosis has resulted in the increase of almost eight years in the average life of the members.

In 1900 the average age at death was forty-one and one-quarter years, and in 1911 was forty-nine and one-eighth years. The balance in the old age pension fund June 1, 1912, was $57,290. The increase in that fund during the year was $102,459. Since the establishment of this fund 1,341 applications for pensions have been filed; during the last fiscal year 304 were approved and eleven disapproved. Thirty-eight applications were received from members over seventy years of age.

On May 31, there were 1,038 on the pension roll, being an increase of 223 during the year.

At the Union Printers' Home at Colorado Springs 127 members are guests at the home, the total number admitted to the home since its opening being 1,312.

Carl Legien, president of the Federated Trade Unions of Germany, who, with his secretary, was a recent visitor at the international offices, gave this tribute to the printers. Said Mr. Legien: "The offices of the International Typographical Union were the finest and best arranged that I have ever seen."

GREAT AMALGAMATION SCHEME.

The Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades in England Getting together—Consolidation Will Total Over 500,000.

Washington, Aug. 10.—One of the most gigantic amalgamations in the trade union movement is now under consideration, the incentive being a determined effort to secure the establishment of an eight-hour day in the shipbuilding trade of Great Britain.

Attempts are now being taken to amalgamate the Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society with the Ship Constructive and Ship Wrights' Association. When this is accomplished, these two societies will endeavor to amalgamate with the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Society of Steam Engine Makers, and the Society of Boilermakers, thus five of the largest and strongest trade unions will be merged into one consolidated whole.

The extent and power of this amalgamation will be realized when it is remembered that the Amalgamated Society of Engineers alone numbers over 100,000 members, and with the addition of the other organizations, over 500,000 experienced trade unionists will be working together for the great objective point—an eight hour day. The amount of tonnage under construction in the British shipyards aggregates 1,698,000 tons. Three of these vessels are to be of 40,000 tons and over. It will, therefore, be seen that with these large orders on hand the shipbuilding companies will be more than likely to grant the eight-hour demand of the men without a protracted struggle.

NEBRASKANS AFTER WRIGHT.

Washington, Aug. 10.—The Nebraska Democratic Convention adopted a plank in its platform denouncing "the usurpation of power on the part of the Federal judiciary as shown by the decision of Justice Daniel Thew Wright," and in response thereto the Nebraska delegation in Congress is examining Justice Wright's decisions and connection with the Gompers-Morrison-Mitchell case.

The Congressmen are diligently searching the records in this celebrated contempt case to ascertain if it contains sufficient material upon which impeachment proceedings can be based against the justice. The Representatives say that the investigation will be thorough and will include the closest possible scrutiny of the record.

Statements from President Gompers, Secretary Morrison, and Vice President Mitchell will be invited, and an opportunity afforded to Justice Wright to submit a statement to the delegation—if he sees fit to do so. The Nebraskans say that the proposed investigation is not a political affair, but will be instituted purely from a judicial standpoint, and that they will hurry the investigation so that the matter may be disposed of, if possible, at the present session of Congress or early in the next session.

IMPROVED CONDITIONS FOR SIGNAL MEN

Further Concessions to English Railway Employes.

Washington, Aug. 10.—The signal men on the London and Northwestern Railway Company have had their working time reduced. The maximum will now be ten hours per day, while in many districts where three shifts are possible the eight-hour day instead of twelve hours per day will be instituted. The bonus system will be discontinued and wages will be raised from 2s. to 5s. per week, the minimum wage now being 24s. per week. Porter signal men will receive a minimum of 23s per week. The minimum wage for gatemen at crossings is fixed at 18s. per week; for linemen the minimum will be 26s. per week, and a maximum of 36s. Assistant linemen, 26s. and 22s. Wiremen, 28s. Laborers and light fixers, 20s. to 24s. The equivalent of an English shilling in American currency is 25 cents.

CEMENT WORKERS GROWING.

Washington, Aug. 10.—The Brotherhood of Cement Workers have organized new unions in Madison, Wis.; Montreal, Canada; Anaconda, Mont.; Hazleton, Pa., and Akron, Ohio.

CONTRACT CONVICT LABOR IN IOWA

Washington, Aug. 10.—In response to complaints made by the organized workers of Iowa, Gov. Carroll, of that State, appointed a commission consisting of George Casson, Attorney General; M. A. Roberts, and C. Sheldon, to investigate industrial conditions at the Fort Madison Penitentiary. This commission has now reported and sustains in every particular the position so long maintained by the labor organizations in the State.

The commission says "the system of private exploitation by contractors of the convicts is the main cause of the cruelty reported and of the absolute failure of the institution as a reformatory." The commission found that the contractors, as is usually the case wherever this undesirable system is tolerated, had undertaken and managed to control the prison for their own profit, and in that particular they had succeeded.

The cruelest punishment was inflicted upon those who could not or did not accomplish the tasks set for them by the contractors. The commission also found that good willing workers among the convicts, who should have been paroled under ordinary circumstances and under State requirements, were held in prison longer than others; their paroles were denied them for the simple and specific reason that they were too valuable to the contractors to be released.

This again bears out the contentions of organized labor in its protest against the abominable system of contracting convicts. Wherever the third party contract system has been investigated, the same story is told. Reformation, justice, kindness, education—all are lost sight of and the entire State institution with its unfortunate tenants are ruthlessly turned over to the business of grinding out profits for the contractors, who, of course, have no interest in the welfare of the State and no interest in the welfare or reformation of the prisoner. Profits—more profits, actuate their every deed.

CLERKS IN EARNEST.

Retail Clerks and Office Accountants Go on Strike.

Washington, Aug. 10.—A strike of ninety retail clerks in the Loeb & Hene Department Store at Lafayette, Ind., on August 3, threatens to develop into a general walk-out of all the union clerical forces in that city. The little town is all unstrung over the walk-out, it being so very unusual to suppose that clerks and salespeople would ever assert themselves strongly enough to enforce their demands by a strike.

The walk-out came about because of the controversy between the store proprietors and the union clerks relative to working hours and a minimum wage scale for the girl clerks, which could not be satisfactorily arranged. The various unions in the city, representing 2,200 men, have pledged themselves to support the clerks in behalf of their demands.

At Metropolis, Fla., eight accountants, formerly employed in the local offices of the R. G. Dun Company, came out on strike on August 3, declaring that the office conditions were unbearable. General Organizer Terry, of the American Federation of Labor, now in Jacksonville, Fla., has the case in hand, and will make an effort to adjust the grievances of the accountants, and obtain better conditions for them.

ELECTRIC SPARKS.

Washington, Aug. 10.—International President F. J. McNulty reports that Charles P. Ford, of local union No. 247, of Schenectady, N. Y., has been selected international secretary to fill the unexpired term of P. J. Collins, recently resigned. Mr. Ford assumes office July 15.

President McNulty also reports that fifty local unions have recently re-established themselves with the Brotherhood. He says, "We sincerely welcome them and solicit their co-operation in our efforts to reunite the electrical workers of the country and to help us make our Brotherhood bigger, better, and more powerful than ever before."

The Memphis local reports that since they changed their affiliations and put a business agent in the field, that fifty-eight new members have been secured and thirteen electrical contractors have made agreements with the local to employ only members of the Brotherhood. Higher wages and better conditions for the Memphis electrical workers was included in the new agreement signed. The Denver local has made an agreement with thirty local contractors. The scale from September 1 will be $4.50 per day.

TAILORS' VICTORY.

London, Aug. 10.—After a seven weeks' strike 10,000 London East End workers in the ladies' costume and mantle-making trades, originally declared as a sympathetic movement in connection with the recent strike of the West End tailors, has just ended in a victory for the strikers. The strikers were employed by master tailors, most of whom were small business men, and who do contract work for the large wholesale and manufacturing establishments.

The wholesale and manufacturing interests gave considerable assistance to the small business concerns in an effort to defeat the strikers, but the smaller houses began signing up with the union, with many of the strikers opening shops and getting contracts. This had the effect of bringing the master tailors to the point where an agreement was reached with the strikers. The new agreement provides for the union shop, a shorter work day, and the abolition of the "dual" system, together with an advance in wages.

MEMBERSHIP AND BENEFITS OF LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN

Washington, Aug. 10.—The locomotive firemen and enginemen had a net increase in their membership for the month of April of 878, May, 465; June, 189, making a total of 1,532 net gain in the past three months. The total membership on July 1, 1912, was 82,905. During the month of June the firemen paid 33 death claims at $55,000; 15 disability claims, at $19,000, or a total paid by these two benefits of $74,000. The net gain in the general funds of the membership for the month of June was $215,672, and on the first day of July the balance in the protective fund passed the half million dollar mark.

STRIKE OF CIGARMAKERS WON.

Chicago, Aug. 10.—The members of Local Union 129 at Denver, Colo., obtained improved shop conditions and consequently increased earning capacity through a strike which lasted ten days. The state of trade in the cigarmaking industry is reported to be better than it has been for five years.

CARMEN EXPANDING AND PROSPEROUS

Washington, Aug. 10.—The Brotherhood of Railway Car Men have recently secured new agreements with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company, by which a minimum rate of 24 1-2 cents per hour was secured, and many beneficial shop conditions.

On the New Orleans, Mobile and Chicago Railway the carmen secured a nine-hour day, better shop conditions, and a revised schedule of wage, in which a raise of from 1 cent to 3 cents per hour was obtained.

They also secured a new joint agreement with the Southern Railway Company, the Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific, the Alabama Great Southern, the Georgia Southern and Florida, and the Virginia Southwestern Railway Company, the latter agreement being made as part of the Federation movement with the machinists, boilermakers, blacksmiths, and sheet metal workers.

General Secretary-Treasurer Weeks reports that the Carmen's Printing Plant, which is their own property, made a net profit of $173.63 during the quarter ending June 30. He very commendably says: "Ours is strictly a union shop, using union-made machinery, union-made stock, and employing only union printers at union wages. The above net gain represents over 20 per cent on the original investment, and is a showing we are proud of. This is a case of collective ownership that really pays."

A new lodge of carmen of fifty-six members has been organized at Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. These men were recent sufferers from the terrible cyclone that nearly destroyed Regina on June 30. The carmen have also organized a very fine lodge at Waycross, Ga., which supplants the former organization of car workers, the members of which considered it to their best interest to form a lodge with the Brotherhood, and so be an important and integral part of the American Federation of Labor.

THE RAILROAD JUGGERNAUT.

Kills 11 and Injures 84.

Washington, Aug. 10.—The death harvest on the railroads continues unabated. The railroad officials will play politics, juggle with courts, harass their employes, beat the tax collector, and do everything and anything except attend to their own legitimate business and operate the railroads safely. From a few scattered clippings gathered from the daily press it is found that in the past ten days eleven persons have been killed and eighty-four injured.

In a collision on the New Jersey and New York Railway at Hillsdale, N. J., ten persons were injured on July 25. At Stonington, Conn., on the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad three were killed and four injured by the sideswiping of two trains on July 25. At St. Johns, Mo., eighteen were seriously injured; caused by a freight colliding with a passenger train on July 29. At Clarksville, Va., on the Southern, ten persons were injured because of a head-on collision on August 1. At Eureka, Ohio, one was killed and seven injured because a freight ran into an excursion train on August 1. At Chewsville, Md., on the Western Maryland Railroad, there were eighteen seriously injured because of a head-on collision on August 2. At Fountain River, Colo., on the Rock Island Railroad, five were killed and ten injured because of a faulty roadbed on August 3. At Vienna, Pa., on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, two were killed and seven injured because the train left the track on August 4.

MINIMUM WAGE RATE FOR ENGLISH COAL MINERS

Washington, Aug. 10.—Lord St. Aldwyn, the arbiter having in charge the negotiations over the minimum wage scale growing out of the recent general strike of coal miners in Great Britain and the passage of the minimum wage act by the English Parliament, has made a report and fixed the minimum wage for the various classes of coal mine workers in the South Wales collieries.

The rates fixed are only slightly below the South Wales schedule as submitted by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain last January, the rate then asked being 7s. 1½d. and 7s. 6d. per day, the actual award given by St. Aldwyn being 6s. 11½d., or about 2½d. per day less than recommended by the Miners' Federation. St. Aldwyn's award has been received with loud protest, and as might be expected, considerable dissatisfaction. What the outcome will be at this writing is problematical.

SHINGLE WEAVERS CLIMBING.

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 10.—The shingle weavers' strike at the University and West Side mills in Portland, Oreg., is still on and being vigorously fought. There are good prospects of an early settlement in one of these mills. The Milwaukee Shingle Company and the Barr Shingle Company have recently raised their wage schedule to the full union standard. The weavers employed in these mills are in good standing in the local. The weavers at Clatskanie, Oreg., after a short fight, obtained the union schedule of wages. The shingle weavers' union schedule is $3.50 per day of ten hours. Weavers working in the unorganized mills get from 30 to 50 per cent lower wages. The shingle packers' union rate is 9 cents per thousand. The average packer can make $3.00 per day at this price. Weavers working in nonunion mills get from 6 to 7½ cents per 1,000 shingles.

CHINESE MINING COAL.

Washington, Aug. 10.—The largest coal fields in China are located at Kaiping and Lanchow. Originally they were government enterprises. During the Boxer rebellion British capitalists took control of the fields. Since then the output of the mines has increased from 50,000 to 2,000,000 tons annually. The fields cover 220,000 square miles. It is intended to increase the annual output to 4,000,000 tons. The British Company is realizing an annual net profit of over $1,200,000.

WANT ONLY UNION MADE BRICK.

Washington, Aug. 10.—The city officials of Pekin, Ill., have decided in the future to use only union-made paving brick made by the Barr Company, of Streator, Ill. Bids made by the Purington Paving Brick Company of Galesburg, Ill., who employ no union men, were turned down by the city officials at Pekin, Ill., and Beardstown, Ill. The Purington Company is now running at less than half capacity.

INCREASE FOR LABORERS AND HOD CARRIERS

Joplin, Mo., Aug. 10.—The Building Laborers and Hod Carriers of Joplin, Mo., will get a minimum of $2 per day of eight hours for the coming year. Previous to organization their maximum wages were $1.75 per day of ten hours.

MAMMON.

Washington, Aug. 10.—In spite of the cry of poverty and persecution, the "poor railroads" and the "struggling trusts" still seem to be overburdened with surplus, dollars wrung from labor and the people through the unholy combination of low wages and high prices. As, for instance, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad officials reported in June that its gross earnings exceeded $4,000,000 more than the fiscal year preceding, and that its net earnings were over 7 per cent.

Of course, that includes 7 per cent on "water" as well as legitimate stock. During the first five months of the year the New York Central shows a gross increase of $20,000,000 over the previous year. The Pennsylvania Railroad for the same interval had an increase of $12,000,000. On July 25, the General Electric added $25,000,000 worth of water to its stock and declared a dividend of $30 per share, payable in stock of the company at par. On July 27, the Colorado Southern candidly admitted it was able to earn 2 per cent on its common stock over the last fiscal year, and in addition earned $532,749 from "other income," which is supposed to represent its control of the Trinity and Brazos Railroad.

The Standard Gas and Electric Company showed nearly $2,000,000 increase in gross earnings. The Denver and Rio Grande, after paying its regular dividend, deposited $1,000,000 in its surplus fund, a sum equal to 2 1-2 per cent on its preferred stock. On July 29, the "good old stock of the Standard Oil Company" of New Jersey sold on the curb for $1,000 a share. This is an increase of $325 per share since the United States Supreme Court smashed the Standard Oil Trust. The market price of Standard Oil, including subsidiaries, has increased $300,000,000 since it was ordered to dissolve. Mr. John D. Rockefeller's part of this amount is estimated to be $90,000,000. On July 30, the United States Steel Corporation showed that it had added a neat surplus after all expenses were paid of over $25,000,000 during the quarter. On July 31, the Brooklyn Rapid Transit showed a surplus of almost $4,-000,000, being an increase of $672,000 over the previous year. On August 1, the Westinghouse Electric Company declared a dividend equal to 6 per cent on its common stock, and then adds, as an encouragement to investors, that "the company is earning 15 per cent on common." On the same date, the Norfolk and Western Railway showed total gross earnings of $40,000,000, an increase of $4,-200,000 over the previous year, or the equivalent of 12 per cent.

The earnings of this road have increased 130 per cent in ten years and is now earning $20,000 gross per mile. The Great Northern Railroad's earnings increase for the month of June were $252,-000, and so it goes—the more water that is poured into these corporate investments, the more sweat is squeezed out of the toiler and consumer.

GARMENT WORKERS HUSTLING.

Washington, Aug. 10.—The United Garment Workers of America have succeeded in unionizing the American Woolen Mills, of Newport, Ky., and granted it the use of the union label.

The strike at the factory of Lesser & Turro, New York, which has been in progress for nine weeks, involving 175 shirt ironers, has been settled. By the terms of the adjustment, the strikers have gained a complete victory, which will materially aid them in organizing several nonunion shops which have been a hindrance to the progress of local No. 142 for some time past.

Organizer Schwarz has concluded an agreement with the Cabe Manufacturing Company, of Parkersburg, W. Va., for the use of the Garment Workers' Union Label.

STOVE MOUNTERS' CONVENTION.

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 10.—The fifteenth convention of the Stove Mounters' International Union was held at Bellville, Ill., July 16-19. It again declared in favor of a closer affiliation with other organizations in the stove industry and to accomplish this purpose a committee was appointed to visit the conventions of the other organizations, so that unity will be established and the interest of all workers in the stove industry protected. The following international officers were elected: General president, Frank Grimshaw, Piqua, Ohio; first vice president, W. L. Funderburk, Rome, Ga.; second vice president, Charles Spilker, Quincy, Ill.; third vice president, W. L. Dowd, Utica, N. Y.; fourth vice president, William J. Harlow, St. Louis, Mo.; secretary-treasurer, J. H. Kaefer, Detroit, Mich.

LAST MINUTE ITEMS.

Washington, Aug. 10.—Organizer Frank McCarthy reports a complete victory for the street car men in Boston. All old employes will go back to their former runs by August 19.

The Martin eight-hour bill for railroad telegraphers was favorably reported to the House by the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce August [illegible].

Senator La Follette of Wisconsin has introduced a bill providing for a Constitutional amendment for the election of President and Vice President by a direct vote of the people.

The striking weavers at New Bedford, Mass., have decided to continue the strike and yield nothing. The total abolition of the grading system, which is only a ruse for fining the weavers for faulty work, will be insisted upon.

SHEET METAL WORKERS GROWING

Washington, Aug. 10.—During the second quarter of this year, the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers granted charters to eight new locals. Editor Bray reports in the July Journal that the strike against the Milwaukee Brewers' Association by local No. 24 of the Amalgamated has been settled in every way entirely satisfactory to the sheet metal workers. In reaching a final settlement an agreement was entered into which will run for three years. This agreement not only provides a liberal wage increase, but makes concessions in the way of improved working conditions for the men.

A BRICKMAKERS' STRIKE.

Washington, Aug. 10.—Three brick manufacturers of East Peoria, Ill., have their plants shut down because of a strike on the part of the brickmakers, who demand higher wages, reduced hours, and a written agreement guaranteeing employment of only union men. One hundred brickmakers and twenty-five teamsters are involved. The employers have offered to concede more wages and fewer hours, but are stubbornly contesting a signed contract and union shop.

ACTIVITY IN TOPEKA, KANS.

Organizer [illegible] A. [illegible], of the Kansas State Federation of Labor, has instituted new locals of Hotel and Restaurant Employes and a Horseshoers' Union at Topeka, Kans.